

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 ADDIS 05925 281633Z

46

ACTION PRS-01

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 SAM-01 SSO-00 USIE-00 SS-20

CCO-00 CIAE-00 OTPE-00 EB-11 FCC-03 INR-10 NSAE-00

OC-06 RSC-01 COME-00 PA-04 CAB-09 DODE-00 DOTE-00

FAA-00 INRE-00 DRC-01 /078 W
----- 060754

O 281453Z MAY 74

FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9181

UNCLAS ADDIS ABABA 5925

SECSTATE FOR S/PRS

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: PINS ET

SUBJ: UPI AP POOL REPORT ON ETHIOPIAN TELECOMMUNICATIONS
STRIKE

REF: STATE 044639

POOLED REPORT BY UNITED PRESS INTERNATIONAL (UPI) AND
ASSOCIATED PRESS (AP) PLEASE FORWARD.

ADDIS ABABA, MAY 28, 1974 -- FOR THE SECOND TIME IN
ABOUT A MONTH, JEEP LOADS OF HEAVILY ARMED TROOPS HAVE
SURROUNDED THE MAIN TELECOMMUNICATIONS BUILDING HERE
IN THE CAPITAL IN AN EFFORT TO BREAK UP THE CONTINUING
TWO-DAY STRIKE BY COMMUNICATIONS WORKERS.

THE NATION-WIDE STRIKE BY ABOUT EIGHT HUNDRED WORKERS
HAS DISRUPTED INTERNATIONAL TELEPHONE, TELEX AND
CABLE SERVICES AND COMPLETELY ISOLATED THE COUNTRY
FROM THE REST OF THE WORLD.

IN ADDITION, THERE WERE FEARS THAT THE AUTOMATIC TELEPHONE
SERVICE WITHIN ADDIS ABABA WOULD ALSO BE CLOSED DOWN.

THE STEEL-HELMETED TROOPS ARRIVED AROUND MID-DAY AND A
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 ADDIS 05925 281633Z

FEW MINUTES LATER SEVERAL OFFICERS WERE SEEN ENTERING THE

BUILDING APPARENTLY TO BEGIN NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE STRIKERS.

ONE WESTERN DIPLOMAT SAID "THIS LATEST ARMED INTERVENTION INDICATES THAT WHILE THE MILITARY HAS REMAINED VIRTUALLY OUT OF SIGHT FOR THE PAST TWO OR THREE WEEKS, IT REMAINS DETERMINED TO KEEP THE COUNTRY'S ECONOMY RUNNING, EVEN IF IT MEANS AT THE POINT OF A RIFLE."

THE STRIKE WAS CALLED FOUR DAYS AGO SHORTLY BEFORE ARMED POLICE BROKE INTO THE WORKERS' MEETING PLACE AND BEAT UP SEVERAL OF THEM.

A SPOKESMAN FOR THE STRIKERS SAID "UNTIL OUR TWENTY-FIVE IMPRISONED COLLEAGUES ARE RELEASED AND THE GENERAL-MANAGER AND OTHER TOP OFFICIALS OF THE TELECOMMUNICATIONS BOARD ARE FIRED, THE STRIKE WILL CONTINUE."

HE SAID THE STRIKERS HAD MANY OTHER GRIEVANCES BUT THAT THEY WOULD BE WILLING TO RETURN TO WORK AFTER THE TOP OFFICIALS HAD BEEN DISMISSED. REPRESENTATIVES OF THE WORKERS COMMISSION SAID NEGOTIATIONS WERE BEING HANDLED ENTIRELY THROUGH THE ARMED FORCES COMMISSION AND NOT THE GOVERNMENT. MEANWHILE IT HAS BEEN RELIABLY REPORTED THAT EMPLOYEES OF ETHIOPIAN AIRLINES AND THE CIVIL AVIATION AUTHORITY HAVE THREATENED TO GO ON STRIKE LATER THIS WEEK. AND SUCH A WALK-OUT WOULD MEAN THE COMPLETE CLOSURE OF ETHIOPIA'S MAIN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT AND THE COUNTRY'S FURTHER ISOLATION.

IT HAS BEEN ANNOUNCED BY THE PRIME MINISTER, ENDALKATCHEW MAKONNEN THAT MR. ZEWEDE GEBRE SELASSIE IS TO BE THE NEW FOREIGN MINISTER. HE REPLACES DE MINASSIE HAILE, WHO RESIGNED THREE WEEKS AGO, MR. ZEWEDE'S SUCCESSOR AS MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR HAS NOT BEEN NAMED.

THE APPOINTMENT COMES LESS THAN TWO WEEKS BEFORE THE OPENING OF THE AOU FOREIGN MINISTER'S MEETING IN THE SOMALI CAPITOL, MOGADISCIO.

THE POST OF MINISTER OF POSTS AND COMMUNICATIONS HAS BEEN GIVEN TO MR TEKALIGN GEDAMU, FORMERLY MINISTER OF PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT. THE FORMER MINISTER OF POSTS, LIEUTENANT GENERAL ASSEFA AYENA IS STILL UNDER MILITARY DETENTION FOLLOWING ALLEGATIONS MADE AGAINST HIM BY UNITS OF THE ARMED FORCES.

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 ADDIS 05925 281633Z

WYMAN

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: REPORTS, TELECOMMUNICATION, CIVIL AVIATION, LABOR STRIKES, NEGOTIATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 28 MAY 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974ADDIS05925
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740133-0497
From: ADDIS ABABA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740516/aaaaanfa.tel
Line Count: 108
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION PRS
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: STATE 044639
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: boyleja
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 04 NOV 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <04 NOV 2002 by boyleja>; APPROVED <08 JAN 2003 by boyleja>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: UPI AP POOL REPORT ON ETHIOPIAN TELECOMMUNICATIONS STRIKE
TAGS: PINS, ET, UPI
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005